



AN EXPERIMENT WITH FIRE: ORIGEN'S INFLUENCE ON THE EARLY MONKS OF EGYPT

23.10.19, 14.15-17.00 in 1451-516.
C-SAC Seminar by Prof. Charles M. Stang
from Harvard Divinity School

Abstract

This lecture will begin with a reassessment of Origen's theological anthropology, focusing on his famous metaphor of Christ's mind as an iron in the fire of God.

With this anthropology in place, we will then consider the vexed question of Origen's influence on the early generations of monks in Egypt, from Antony the Great to Evagrius of Pontus. What evidence is there for Origen's theology of fire among these monks? Can we plausibly understand the early monastic enterprise as "an experiment with fire"? And what does this tell us about the relationship of the city to the desert, the school to the cell, in fourth-century Egypt?



Program:

14.15-15.30 Presentation with Q and A.

15.30-15.45 Coffee.

15.45-16.15 Group-work.

16.15-17.00 Re-gathering with follow up on group-work and further discussion.